

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

I claim:

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (New) In a cabinet assembly wherein a plurality of elevated cabinets are interconnected by a connector mechanism that connects abutting vertical sidewalls of adjacent cabinets, the

5 improvement wherein the connector mechanism comprises:

interfitting male and female connector elements releasibly mounted in opposed connector openings in the sidewalls of adjacent cabinets,

the connector openings comprising recesses in the sidewalls, with locking slots extending laterally outwardly from peripheral edges of inner portions of the recesses, the slots being spaced  
10 between and separated from front and back surfaces of the sidewalls;

each connector element including a body having a plurality of angularly spaced tabs extending radially therefrom, the body and the tabs being axially movable into and out of one of the recesses in the sidewall when the connector element is angularly oriented in a released position, the tabs fitting in the locking slots and locking the connector element from axial movement out of the  
15 connector opening when the connector element is rotated to a locked position,

the female connector element having an outer surface with a keyhole opening therein, the keyhole opening having an enlarged opening at one end connected to a narrower width slot at an opposite end,

the male connector element having a projection extending outwardly from an outer surface  
20 of the male connector, the projection comprising an enlarged head on a narrower shaft, the head being smaller than the enlarged opening of the keyhole slot but larger than the slot, the shaft being

smaller than the slot, such that the male connector element is locked in the female connector element by inserting the head of the projection through the enlarged opening of the keyhole opening and sliding the shaft of the projection into the narrower slot of the keyhole opening.

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5. (New) A cabinet assembly as in claim 4 wherein the connector elements include a generally cylindrical body having inner and outer portions, the tabs being positioned at the inner portion of the body, the outer surface being positioned on the outer portion of the body, the connector opening recess in the sidewall of the cabinet having an outer portion as well as the inner  
5 portion, the tabs fitting through the outer portion into the inner portion when the connector element is oriented in a released position, the tabs being movable, by rotation of the body, into the locking slots when the tabs are located in the inner portion of the sidewall.

6. (New) A cabinet assembly according to claim 5 wherein the keyhole slot is oriented horizontally when mounted in the connector opening, with the narrower slot extending horizontally away from the enlarged opening in the keyhole opening,

5 the slot orientation being such that adjoining cabinets are connected together by horizontal movement of one cabinet with respect to the other, thereby permitting two cabinets to be positioned in abutting relationship with a ceiling and still being connectable together by interengagement of the projection on one cabinet with the keyhole slot on the other cabinet.

7. (New) A cabinet assembly according to claim 5 wherein the connector elements are recessed in the connector openings in the vertical sidewalls of the adjoining cabinets sufficiently

that the cabinets can be locked together with the adjoining sidewalls being in abutment with each

5 other.

8. (New) A cabinet <sup>assembly</sup> ~~construction~~ according to claim 5 wherein:

the body includes four equally spaced locking tabs;

5 the outer portion of the opening in the sidewalls has a generally square configuration, with the corners of the square being shaped to receive the tabs therethrough, the square portion having sidewalls having a distance thereacross that is too small to permit the tabs to be inserted through the outer portion with the tabs oriented adjacent the midpoints of the sidewalls; and

the inner portion of the opening is generally cylindrical and has a diameter sufficient to  
10 receive the tabs of the connectors therein,

the connector element being insertable into the connector opening by orienting the tabs toward the corners of the outer portion and then axially inserting the connector element into the connector opening, the connector element thereafter being locked into the connector opening by rotating the connector element until the tabs are moved to a position wherein the square outer  
15 portion prevents axial removal of the tabs from the inner portion of the connector opening.

9. (New) A cabinet <sup>assembly</sup> ~~construction~~ according to claim 8 wherein the cylindrical body includes one or more beveled locking surfaces thereon adjacent the tabs but positioned so that they engage  
5 the sidewalls of the square portion of the opening and resiliently hold the connector in a desired rotational position when the connector is inserted in the opening and rotated to its locking position.

10. (New) A cabinet assembly as in claim 4 wherein the locking slots are spaced apart, and wherein each locking slot extends for only a portion of the circumference of the connector opening, such that when the connector element is inserted in the connector opening and rotated from its released to its locked position, an end of the slot stops the tab when it is in its locked position.